

008641

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Los Angeles, California  
August 6, 1945

Director, FBI

DECLASSIFIED BY 2842-1334  
ON 6/24/81

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Re: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my recent personal conversation with Assistant Director D. M. LADD concerning a telephone call received by him from Representative JOHN RANKIN of Mississippi wherein he made inquiry concerning the SAC at Los Angeles.

I have endeavored to ascertain the possible source of information of Congressman RANKIN, and for whatever value it may be I wish to advise that recently while returning to California from Washington, D. C. aboard the "Chief," I met JAMES STEDMAN, who was formerly the investigator for the Dies Committee here in Los Angeles. STEDMAN stated that he is now employed by the Honolulu Oil Company and had been in Washington for several weeks attending Congressional hearings on an oil matter, he having been taken back by the president of the company in view of the fact that he had had considerable experience with Congressional committees. He stated that he had talked with various members of the present House Committee on Un-American Activities and in fact had been offered the position of chief investigator, but he was no longer interested in work of this kind and had turned it down.

He definitely indicated that he had seen all of the Committee, and the thought occurs to me that it is entirely possible that he may be the individual who gave Representative RANKIN the impression that he had concerning the Los Angeles Office of the FBI. STEDMAN always appeared friendly on the surface; however, very little contact has ever been had with him, and no information of any consequence was ever given to him in connection with matters under investigation by the Dies Committee. It is quite possible that he may feel I have never been friendly towards him.

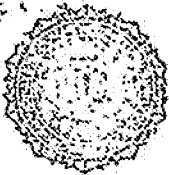
Very truly yours,

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
RBH:ESPANVISE TO DRAFTING  
SLIP (S) OF  
DATE 7/10/81



RECEIVED  
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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Los Angeles, California

August 10, 1945

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_



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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

DECLASSIFIED BY 11678 RFP/JS  
ON 3/13/86

Appr 22, 1966  
FOIA # 63,581

Class. & Ext. By: 6/26/81  
Reason: FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
Date of Review: 6/26/91  
Re: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

This is to advise that LOUIS J. RUSSELL, formerly a Special Agent of the FBI, has just arrived in Los Angeles to conduct investigation for the House Committee, apparently devoting his time to the Hollywood activities, as was recently mentioned by Congressman RANKIN in a statement to the press. He has an appointment with Miss MARGARET MERR, local head of the Better America Federation on the morning of August 10th.

[redacted] advises that CHESTER NIKLAS of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a former secretary to Senator DAVID REED of Pennsylvania, and GEORGE McDEVOTT, formerly an OPA investigator at Newark, New Jersey, are to be the investigators for the committee, together with LOUIS J. RUSSELL, mentioned above.

The same informant advises that [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

He did not name the source of this pressur [redacted]

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DATE 7/10/81

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SEP 20 1945  
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

August 10, 1945

Re: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

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The informant has made

It is to be noted, however, the informant has no specific information on this point.

Secondly,

CECIL B. ~~DEKILL~~ advised Assistant Director NICHOLS and me on August 8th that FRANK ~~FREEMAN~~ of Paramount Studios had received a letter from the new Un-American Committee counsel, ERNEST ~~ANDERSON~~, and he exhibited the letter and Mr. FREEMAN's reply. ANDERSON asked if FREEMAN would testify when the Committee came here on un-American activities in Hollywood, and Mr. FREEMAN replied that he would be glad to do so as he was very much interested

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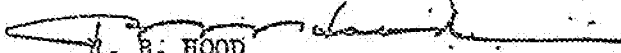
SEP 20 1945  
APPROVED ORIGINAL RECORD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

August 10, 1945

Re: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

in the Committee's investigation and thought it an excellent idea provided they were really interested in ascertaining all about un-American activities and suggested that they begin with those branches in the Federal Government where it is known that such activity is engaged in by government employees. He stated if this was done and they came to Hollywood, he would be very glad to give whatever information he had, and he closed his communication by asking what they intended to do with the information they might develop. Mr. FREEMAN has heard nothing further from the Committee; however, they took the privilege of making public his reply without his express permission, and he is very indignant at the action of the Committee on this matter. He concludes definitely that this committee is also interested only in publicity and not in conducting a thorough impartial investigation.

  
R. B. HOOD  
SAC

RBH:MDL

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